

REMARKS

The office action of August 22, 2007, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Japanese patent 5-59446, Japanese patent 2000-94100 or Japanese patent 5-255816.

Claims 3 and 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over JP'446, JP'100 or JP'816 in view of the patent to Tosaka or the patent to Berger.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has canceled claim 4 and amended claims 1 and 6.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out

by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the methods and constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, applicant submits that none of the references disclose or suggest a process or system for producing metal strip in which the rolling takes place after the strip has been heated and chemically treated, and the thickness of the strip is subjected to a reduction of 30-40% during rolling, as in the presently claimed invention. The references all teach greater amounts of reduction.

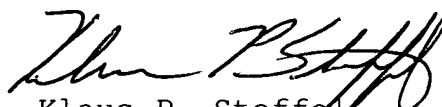
In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and the rejection of claims 3 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.

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Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 22, 2008.

By: 
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: February 22, 2008